

Serving the needs of the brethren and communities in Abaco and Grand Bahama following the devastation of Hurricane Dorian.

A work in partnership with the
**Palm Beach Lakes
CHURCH OF CHRIST**
P.O. BOX 33688
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33420

*"...through love serve one another....You shall love your neighbor as yourself...Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ...As we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially those who are of the household of faith"
(Galatians 5:13-14; 6:2, 10).*

Hurricane Relief

Bahamas
Churches of Christ

Report from Palm Beach Lakes for
September 13, 2019

*Thank you for supporting this relief effort designed to help those precious souls who are trying to **recover and rebuild (physically, emotionally and spiritually)**. Every dollar that is donated goes directly to the purchase, shipping and distribution of these much-needed supplies.*

Update on the Relief Efforts in the Bahamas

This is the first of what will likely become a weekly report to those who have great interest in all that is happening in the work being done by American brethren to help in the overwhelming needs of those in the Bahamas.

This week has been a remarkable one in that our first container was shipped. Having received the list of items most urgently needed from Christians in the Bahamas, members at the Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ (PBL) immediately purchased everything on that list with the funds you provided. They were first stored in a large classroom in our church building and at the end of Sunday morning worship, two large trucks were loaded to be taken to our shipper the next day. We are shipping directly to a company owned by a Bahamian Christian in Freeport, who has a personal interest in what we are doing and has guaranteed us that every container will be delivered to the church members who asked for the supplies.



The First Shipment

On Monday morning, the trucks, loaded with the precise items requested by Bahamian brethren, were taken to Tropical Shipping. Tropical is located at the Port of Palm Beach (less than three miles from our building) and is one of the largest distributors throughout the Caribbean. There were fifteen generators and electrical fittings, chain saws (with oil, sharpeners and extra chains), 8000 bottles of water, food supplies, clothing, and a host of other items they requested. Our members worked side-by-side with the workers at Tropical, transferring the items to pallets, and shrink-wrapping each of the pallets. We are so blessed that two of our members at PBL work at Tropical and helped make all of this happen.

Tuesday Activities

Once the container was filled, it was loaded on the next ship headed for Freeport, the second largest city in the Bahamas. One of the larger Bahamian congregations was ready

Update on the Relief Efforts (cont.)

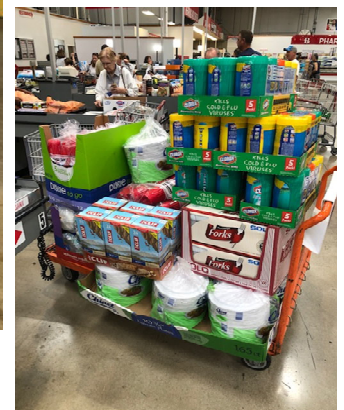
to receive and distribute what was sent. Freeport is only eighty miles from West Palm Beach, so the items arrived there on Thursday—just two days after it was shipped. On Thursday, the container, having cleared customs, was unloaded by Bahamian brethren and today it will be distributed to those who are hurting. God is so good. He has amazingly, in unexpected ways, opened doors before us to make all of this happen.

On Tuesday there was also a video conference call involving PBL, several leaders in the Bahamian churches and American brethren who have a great interest in helping. As a result of that meeting, Bahamian



brethren will let us know by Thursday of each week their immediate needs. Once the lists from various places arrive, members at PBL will spend the next two or three days purchas-

ing whatever is on the lists. These will be stored at PBL and sorted, smaller items will be placed in boxes, and each Monday everything will be taken to fill a container at the Port of Palm Beach. Each Tuesday, they will be shipped, and under the supervision of our shipper, who has used Tropical Shipping for years, the supplies will arrive in the Bahamas.



A New List Arrives

On Wednesday of this week, our second list from the Bahamas arrived and right now our members are purchasing what they have requested. This week's list contained a lot of building supplies. There are fourteen members of the church in Freeport whose homes were heavily damaged, and they need immediate help to have a place to live. We are making a list of American tradesmen who can volunteer to spend time helping in reconstruction. While we do not have a date when this will start, we want to be prepared. These items will leave the Port of Palm Beach on Tuesday of next week and be distributed on the following Friday.

Information You May Need

The Bahamas are a chain of hundreds of islands with the closest one just fifty miles from West Palm Beach. Many of the islands were spared from the ravages of Dorian, but the two most northern islands, Abaco and Grand Bahama, had sustained winds of 140 MPH for 36 hours. Abaco suffered the greatest damage. The church building in Marsh Harbour was wrecked with all windows broken, the roof heavily damaged and eight feet of water inside the building. It appears the city was almost wiped out, with many now homeless and fleeing. Some are in Nassau, the capital city of the Bahamas on another island, which was not as heavily damaged, and some are in Florida. When the port in Marsh Harbour is opened and brethren return, we will begin working there as we are in Freeport.

Pray for the Bahamas and for us as we work there.